A RECORD OF TWENTY-FIVE YEARS EXPERT WORK IN SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL GALLERIES AND COLLECTIONS OF PAINTINGS IN GREAT BRITAIN AND AMERICA

published 1906

WITH COMPLIMENTS OF

J. PURVES CARTER

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To My Clients and Friends:

In thanking my clients and friends for the support they have extended to me in the past, I take this opportunity of announcing that I am prepared to undertake the restoration of any paintings they may deem in need of expert treatment, and of assuring them that the greatest care and attention will be devoted to all work undertaken by me.

I also take pleasure in announcing to them that I have established an accessory branch of my business, which circumstances justify me in believing will supply a long-felt want.

For upwards of six years, during the entire period of the practice of my profession in this country, I have encountered serious difficulty in getting paintings on canvas scientifically and properly relined, and paintings on panel perfectly cradled, in preparation for the artistic work of restoration which is my specialty.

Under the circumstances described I have been practically compelled to undertake personally both these lines of preparatory work, and I am now making them a special branch of my business. My experience in both relining and cradling during the practice of my profession in Europe has been extensive, and in the course of my subsequent experience in America I have devoted to this subject much consideration and study. Possessing an intimate knowledge of the methods in vogue in various countries, and

equipped with appliances which I have myself specially devised and taken pains to improve, I may state, without exaggeration, that I have brought both these branches of work to a state of perfection which they have never heretofore even approximately attained. By the methods I employ the most exacting requirements are fulfilled, my process of relining paintings on canvas resulting in the absolute and permanent perfection of surfaces and solidification of the elements of which they are composed, and the eradication of all blemishes to which they are liable, and my process of cradling paintings on panel effectually counteracting the deleterious effects of shrinkage and expansion caused by variations of temperature and of humidity.

I may also remind my clients and friends that I include in my practice not only the restoration of oil and tempera paintings, but also the cleaning and restoring of water-color drawings and valuable prints.

Critical examinations will be made and reliable opinion given as to authorship of paintings of all schools, and valuations made for insurance and other purposes. The preparation of catalogues de luxe undertaken, and estimates furnished upon request.

J. PURVES CARTER.

In the course of his European experience Mr. Carter studied at the Royal Academy of Arts, London, and took Artmaster's certificate at the National Art Training School, South Kensington, and worked under the late Mr. Henry Merritt, restorer in the Royal Galleries and Collections; under Sir Frederick Burton, director of the National Gallery, and under Signor Raffaelle Pinti, restorer to the National Gallery, and Prof. A. H. Church F. R. S. Expert to the Royal Academy.

Mr. Carter was art teacher at the Charter House school of art, and the Polytechnic Institute. He is the author of the following works. "Songs of Hope," "The Cross of Beauty," "Art and the Beautiful," as well as innumerable Essays, art notices, and critiques to many journals, etc.

Mr. Carter has cleaned and restored and in numerous instances relined and cradled many of the paintings in the collections of the following residents of New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Boston, Providence, R. I., Montreal, Canada, and other Cities.

New York.

Mr. Catholina Lambert.
Mr. Stanford White.
Mr. W. F. Dorflinger.
Congressman Muller.
Mr. H. O. Watson.
Mr. T. J. Blakeslee.
Mr. Louis R. Erich.
Mr. Vital Benguiat.
Mrs. Minturn.
Messrs. Arthur Tooth & Sons.
Messrs. Dowdeswell & Dowdeswell.
Messrs. Duveen Bros.
Messrs. Fishel, Adler & Schwartz.
The Holland Galleries.
The W. G. Bury Collection.

Philadelphia.

Mr. J. G. Johnson.
Mr. P. A. B. Widener.
Mr. E. T. Stotesbury.
Judge W. W. Carr.
Mr. J. E. McClees.
The Wilstach Collection, in the Art Museum, Fairmount Park.

Baltimore.

Dr. George Reuling.
Mr. Faris C. Pitt.
Mr. Ruxton M. Ridgeley.
Mrs. De Keyser.
Mr. T. E. Hambleton.

Washington, D.C.

Mr. Justice White.
Mr. Thomas Nelson Page.
Mr. Ralph Cross Johnson.
Mr. James Marion Johnston.
Mr. Thos. E. Waggaman.
Mr. Henry Perkins.
Mr. Geo. Tod Ford.
Dr. Richard Deane, U. S. N.
Mrs. E. C. Hobson.
Mrs. Chatard.
Mrs. H. Jennings.
Dr. James Dudley Morgan.
Mr. Morse
Messrs. Cotton & White.
Messrs. Wood, Donn & Deming.
Mrs. Harriet Lane Johnstone.
Mrs. Tuckerman.
Mrs. George Bliss.
Mrs. Katherine Hubbard.
The Misses Riggs.
Mr. James Lowndes.
Mr. Archibald Hopkins.
Mr. George Lathrop Bradley (deceased) president Bell Telephone.
Mr. Edson Bradley.
Mr. Justice Embry.

The William Penn Clarke collection.

Mr. Francis Bartlett of Boston.
Mrs. H. M. Sears "
Mrs. Charles Bradley of Providence.

Mr. Carter has also cleaned and restored the paintings, and made catalogues, reports, and valuations, of the following collections, among many others, in Great Britain:

The collections in the various palaces and castles of the Marquis of Bute, which contain many priceless masterpieces.

Sir J. C. Robinson, the late Queen Victoria's Surveyor of the Royal Collections.

Prof. A. H. Church, of the Royal Academy, London.

Admiral De Kautzow.

Sir George Donaldson.

Mr. Charrington Smith.

Mr. John Corry.

Col. Hector MacKenzie.

Dr. Lowe.

The Earl of Orford.

The Earl of Amhurst.

The Earl of Lucan.

The Marquis of Northampton.

The Duke of Richmond.

Mr. James Brand.

Mr. William Graham.

Sir Edward Tracey Hardinge.

Mr. Frederick Leyland.

The Order of St. Theresa. (The paintings by Rubens and others, painted for the Order in Antwerp.)

Earl Spencer, K. G.

Fitz William Collection, Cambridge University.

The National Gallery of London.

The National Portrait Gallery of London.

The Royal Academy of London.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Edward Malet, ex-Ambassador to Berlin.

Col. Fitz George, for the Duke of Cambridge.

General Eyre.

Major-General Alex. Elliot.

Col. Robert Gunter, M.P.

Mr. George Salting.

Miss Williams, of Oswestry.

Col. Henry Cornwall Legh.

Mr. Brydges Willyams.

Lady Victoria Wellesley.

Sir Richard Greene Price.

Mr. David Price.

Sir Wm. Abdy (for his Paris establishment, including the great ceiling by Sir Jas. Thornhill).

The Henry Doetsch collection.

The Markham family collections.

Mr. S. D. Waddy, Q.C., M.P.

Rev. A. E. Clementi-Smith.

Chevalier Eduoardo de Martino (the late Queen Victoria's marine painter).

Mr. Seymour Lucas, R.A.

Messrs. Gillow.

Rev. W. G. Beardmore.

Revd. W. J. Dawson.

Mr. Bisset Scott.

Mr. Frederick Sellar.

The following testimonials are a few of very many Mr. Carter has received from prominent people in America.

From MR. CATHOLINA LAMBERT.

Bella Vista Castle, PATERSON, N.J.

J. Purves Carter has overlooked my gallery of paintings at Bella Vista Castle, Paterson, N.J. I have found him the most competent person that I have met, and I have entrusted to him the most valuable paintings in my collection, and am well satisfied with all he has done. CATHOLINA LAMBERT.

From MR. THOMAS NELSON PAGE.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

I take pleasure in stating that Mr. J. P. Carter, who has been cleaning, repairing, and in some instances restoring, our pictures, has done the work in the most skillful and satisfactory way. He was first recommended to me by Mr. R. C. Johnson, of this city, whose pictures he had been cleaning, and I found him to possess remarkable skill. He not only knows just what to do, but what not to do, and I take pleasure in commending him to any one whose pictures need "going over."

THOMAS NELSON PAGE.

From MR. JAMES MARION JOHNSTON,

VICE-PRESIDENT RIGGS NATIONAL BANK.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MR. J. PURVES CARTER:

DEAR SIR:—I take great pleasure in saying that your work in relining and restoring three of my oil paintings, and in cleaning, etc., nearly all of them, has been entirely satisfactory.

Yours truly, JAMES M. JOHNSTON.

From MR. JUSTICE E. D. WHITE
(SUPREME COURT.)

NARRAGANSETT PIER, R. I.

DEAR MR. CARTER:

I must thank you very heartily for the admirable work you have done for me in restoring the three paintings. The result far exceeds my possible expectations. Next October on my return I have two more which I hope to have you examine.

One must see your work to appreciate its great merit.

Yours very truly,

E. D. WHITE.

N. B.—This letter refers to the cleaning and restoring of three very fine paintings, namely: A Holy Family, by Sir Peter Paul Rubens; A Holy Family, by Bernard Van Orlay; and a portrait of Napoleon the First, which had to be relined.

McCLEES GALLERIES.

1518 Chestnut Street, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

MR. J. PURVES CARTER:

MY DEAR SIR:—The restoring and relining work you have done for me on valuable paintings has been so satisfactory that it is a pleasure for me to recommend your ability to persons wanting work done on really fine paintings.

Yours truly, J. E. McCLEES.

From MR. W. F. DORFLINGER.

124 West Seventy-first Street, NEW YORK.

MR. J. PURVES CARTER:

DEAR SIR:—In reply to your inquiry, I beg to say that the work you did on my pictures in the way of cleaning and varnishing was well done and satisfactory.

Yours truly, W. F. DORFLINGER.

From DR. GEO. REULING.

103 W. Monument Street, BALTIMORE, MD.

I take pleasure in saying that Mr. J. Purves Carter has done a considerable amount of expert work in my collection of old masters, and that he has earned my full satisfaction, as he has most carefully avoided the interference with the originality of the various paintings, which is such a frequent fault of the average restorer.

He is an expert in art of a high order.

His relinings have been the most satisfactory I have ever had done anywhere, and his apparatus is the most perfect I have seen.

GEO. REULING. M.D.

From Messrs. DOWDESWELL & DOWDESWELL.

THE DOWDESWELL GALLERIES,
16 and 18 West Thirtieth Street, New York,
and 160 New Bond Street, London.

TO MR. J. PURVES CARTER:

DEAR SIR:—We have pleasure in stating that we have been thoroughly satisfied with the discreet and skillful way in which you have carried out the work entrusted to you. Yours faithfully,

DOWDESWELL & DOWDESWELL, Limited.

From MR. H. O. WATSON.

16 West Thirtieth Street, NEW YORK.

DEAR MR. CARTER:

I am more than satisfied with the manner in which you have restored some of the paintings in my house. Several were in such a bad condition that I did not believe they could ever be restored, and the result of your work proves that you are quite the most artistic and skillful of any one I have ever known, and a master of your profession. It will give me much pleasure to recommend you to any one needing the services of a reliable gentleman.

Very sincerely, H. O. WATSON.

Villa Favorita, Yonkers, N. Y.

From McKIM, MEAD & WHITE.

(Architects to the White House, for whom Mr. Carter has done considerable expert work, both in restoration of paintings and in decoration).

Dated from Mr. Whitney's House, 871 Fifth Ave., NEW YORK.

DEAR MR. WATSON:

We have been waiting to see Mr. Carter and have him express an opinion as to the best way to repair the Raphael at Mr. Whitney's.

Will you kindly have him call and see either Mr. Regan or myself Saturday morning at 10 A.M. and oblige,

Yours truly, McKIM, MEAD & WHITE.

From MR. JAMES LOWNDES.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MR. J. PURVES CARTER:

DEAR SIR:—The four portraits which were in your hands have been delivered to me, and I take pleasure in expressing to you my satisfaction with your treatment of them.

It exhibits a high order of skill and has been of great benefit in restoring them to their original condition and in securing their preservation.

Yours truly,

JAMES LOWNDES.

From Messrs. WOOD, DONN & DEMING,

ARCHITECTS.

808 Seventeenth Street, WASHINGTON, D.C.

MR. J. PURVES CARTER:

DEAR SIR:—I take the greatest pleasure in telling you that the old pictures you relined and restored for Mr. Wood and myself are so vastly improved that half of their beauties of tone and color were hardly suspected. We are more than pleased and wish you the greatest success which we think you more than deserve.

Very truly yours, EDWARD W. DONN.

From Mrs. CHARLES BRADLEY,

Providence, R. I.

My attention was first called to Mr. Carter's work, by my brother-in-law, the late George Lathrop Bradley of Washington D. C. upon whose collection of paintings Mr. Carter was then working.—I now take pleasure in expressing my entire satisfaction with the work Mr. Carter has done, in cleaning and restoring my own collection of paintings. He has not only left them in excellent condition after most skillful care and attention, but he has also discovered some signatures hitherto unseen, and has been able to decide upon the authorship of certain paintings.—Among these may be mentioned a signed Lorenzo Lotto, a Duccio, and a Moroni heretofore unrecognised.

I am very glad to commend Mr. Carter to any one desiring most faithful and skillful work in cleaning a restoring paintings.

JANE W. BRADLEY,

Providence, R. I. June 12th, 1906.

From Dr. JAMES DUDLEY MORGAN,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

TO MR. J. PURVES CARTER.

DEAR SIR:—As you know I am delighted with the work you have done for me. There is no one I could more strongly recommend for the relining, cleaning and restoring of old paintings.

Yours, very truly,

JAMES D. MORGAN.

NOTE:—Referring to the family portrait of Sir Dudley Diggs, Prime Minister to Charles I. by Vandyke.

From Mr. FRANCIS BARTLETT, (of Boston).

PRIDES CROSSING, MASS., JULY 1st, 1906.

Mr. J. Purves Carter.

Dear Sir:—I have received your note of yesterday and in reply would say that I shall be very glad to say to any one you may wish, that I have been very much pleased with your success in treating the paintings which I have recently placed in your hands for that purpose.

Very truly yours,

Francis Bartlett.

From Mr. RALPH CROSS JOHNSON

of Washington, D. C.

To Mr. E. B. Greenshields,

of Montreal, Canada.

My Dear Sir:—I venture to give you a line of introduction to Mr. J. P. Carter, whose business is the restoration, cleaning, varnishing, etc., of old and modern paintings. He is going to your city later on, and I hope you may be able to get him admission to the great collections in Montreal and he can be trusted to do the most difficult work in his profession. He has done some work for me and many others in Washington which turned out well in every case.

Faithfully yours,

R. C. Johnson

The following testimonials are a few of very many Mr. Carter has received from prominent people in England:

Extract from THE ROTHESAY EXPRESS.

Wednesday, September 21st, 1887.

LORD BUTE'S PICTURE.

The picture of the late Lord Bute which adorns the Court Hall is, we understand, about to undergo cleaning and restoring at the hands of Mr. J. Carter, a celebrated artist of London, who is at present doing some work at Mount Stuart for his Lordship. The Commissioners of Supply have arranged with Mr. Carter to do this work.

From Mr. J. G. GODWIN,

Librarian to the most noble the Marquis of Bute, K.T.

Having been requested by Mr. J. Carter to furnish him with a reference as to his work in the restoration of pictures, I can truly say that I have found him both efficient and able in the treatment of paintings I have from time to time placed in his hands from the different collections belonging to Lord Bute.

J. G. GODWIN, Librarian to Lord Bute.

83 Eccleston Square, London, September 19, 1890.

From CHARLES HOWELL, Friend and Secretary of JOHN RUSKIN.

DEAR CARTER:

I have shown the Italian paintings you restored to Ruskin, who, you will be pleased to hear, expressed great admiration for the patient and loving care you have bestowed upon them. He had seen the pictures when they arrived from Italy.

Yours faithfully, C. HOWELL.

Southampton Row, February 15, 1890.

From MR. ANDREW A. BRAND, Sanderstead Court, Surrey.

DEAR SIR:—As executor to my brother (and on behalf of the other executors), I have pleasure in stating that you have conducted the business entrusted to you in advising and effecting sales to the best advantage.

The work of cleaning and restoring the valuable collection of Landseer engravings, and the oil paintings, which you did personally, has been well and conscientiously done, both to our satisfaction and to those who have seen them. I have therefore pleasure in recommending you as a reliable expert and restorer.

Yours truly, ANDREW A. BRAND, J. P.

[The foregoing refers to the collection of the late Mr. James Brand, Lord Lieutenant of the county of Surrey. Several of these pictures were bought by the National Gallery of London.]

From PROF. A. H. CHURCH, M.A., F.R.S.,

Authority on the Restoration and Preservation of Ancient Paintings to the Royal Academy of Arts, London.

DEAR MR. CARTER:

I am happy to be able to commend your work as an expert in restoring paintings. I have told Admiral De Kautznow that he may entirely rely upon your restoring his paintings without any fear of removing any of the glazings. I shall be happy to continue to recommend you. Yours truly,

A. H. CHURCH, F.R.S., Professor of Chemistry.

London, October 9, 1890.

From COLONEL A. C. F FITZ-GEORGE, A. D. C., Son of H. R. H. the Duke of Cambridge.

To Mr. Carter, of Bond Street:

Sir:—I was extremely well satisfied with the manner in which you cleaned and restored the pictures I handed to you. I will call to speak about the other pictures.

Yours faithfully, A. C. Fitz-George, Colonel.

Gloucester House, Park Lane, London, W.

From the MOTHER PRIORESS of the Order of Saint Theresa, Lanherne Convent, St. Columb, Cornwall.

The Reverend Mother Prioress has great pleasure in stating that Mr. Carter has cleaned and restored the valuable collection of paintings by Rubens and other masters (which were painted for the Order) in a most admirable and patient manner. They were in a very bad state indeed, some in rags even. They are, of course, of extreme interest, one being the original portrait of Saint Theresa. They have been exceedingly admired by all who come to see them, and more especially the great painting of the "Flagellation," by Rubens.

From LADY VICTORIA LONG WELLESLEY.

Lady Victoria Wellesley has great pleasure in stating that Mr. Carter has cleaned and restored her collection of paintings here in a manner that leaves nothing to be desired. They were in a very bad state generally.

Mr. Carter made many valuable discoveries of signatures of painters, besides greatly enhancing the beauty of the pictures by careful cleaning.

Mr. Carter has made the catalogue of the collections here and at her house in Portland Place, London, a most interesting work. He has also valued both collections for insurance purposes.

West Stoke House, W. Chichester, Sussex.

The collection contains historical portraits from Charles I. downwards, by Vandyke, Sir Peter Lely, etc., etc.]

From Messrs. BURCH, WHITEHEAD & DAVIDSONS,
Solicitors, London.

16th February, 1892.

DEAR SIR:—We enclose the list of oil paintings belonging to the Markham family now in the custody of Mr. Smart, the expert, of Argyll Place, W. We wish you to inspect them and advise us carefully of each one separately, stating what you consider a fair price and also the extreme price that they might fetch at a favourable auction. We shall then fix a sum for which each picture is to be insured for. The pictures are separately described and will be pointed out by Mr. Smart.

We have no reason to suppose that the Reynolds, Gainsboroughs and others are not genuine, but you will no doubt make any remarks on the subject you think right.

The valuation is to be made irrespective of Mr. Smart, who merely has the pictures for custody.

It is understood you will do this for agreed fee.

Yours truly, BURCH, WHITEHEAD & DAVIDSONS.

To MR. J. CARTER.

From the SAME FIRM.

29 Spring Gardens, 5th February, 1895.

DEAR SIR:—The trustees of Mr. Markham have received a firm offer of £1,000 for the two paintings by Mantegna, now on exhibition at the New Gallery, and they would be glad to have your advice on the offer.

Pray let us hear from you by return, as we cannot leave the matter open.

Yours truly,
BURCH, WHITEHEAD & DAVIDSONS.

From MR. J. G. GODWIN,

Librarian to the Marquis of Bute, K. T.

DEAR MR. CARTER:

I am happy to inform you that His Lordship has expressed his entire satisfaction with the manner in which you have restored the paintings in the collection transferred to this house, as well as the work you carried out at Cardiff Castle, and His Lordship's places in Scotland, at Mount Stuart, Isle of Bute, and Dumfries House. I shall require your services again at Mount Stuart, and will write and let you know when I am ready.

Yours faithfully, J. G. GODWIN,
Librarian to Lord Bute.

St. John's Lodge, Regents Park, London, December 12, 1892.

From the COUNTESS OF ORFORD, Mannington Hall, Aylsham, Norfolk (referring to the "Walpole" collection, founded by Sir Robert Walpole, Bart., three hundred years ago).

The Countess of Orford has much pleasure in stating that Mr. Carter has cleaned and restored the collection of paintings at Mannington Hall in a manner that gives her the greatest satisfaction, and within the time agreed.

Mannington Hall, Norfolk, September 20, 1895.

From SIR EDWARD MALET, Privy Councillor to Queen Victoria and ex-Ambassador to Berlin.

Sir Edward Malet writes to acknowledge receipt of the six paintings, and is highly pleased with the successful manner Mr. Carter has restored his pictures, which were so badly damaged.

Wrestwood, Boxhill-on-Sea.

From SIR GEORGE DONALDSON,

106 New Bond Street, LONDON.

DEAR MR. CARTER:

I have great pleasure in stating that I am well satisfied with all you have done for me in the way of restoring my paintings.

Yours very truly,

GEORGE DONALDSON.

From the REV. A. E. CLEMENTI-SMITH,
The Rectory, Chadwell Saint Mary, Grays, Essex.

I have much pleasure in recommending Mr. J. Purves Carter as a skilful and judicious restorer and cleaner of valuable paintings. His method cannot fail to give the utmost satisfaction to the **cognoscenti**, for while it is thorough, even to the most minute particular, it is entirely free from that bane of so-called **restorers**, over-cleaning. His reverent love of true works of art, added to unusual opportunities for observation and much experience, render his opinion and his work at all times trustworthy and valuable.

September 29, 1890. A. E. CLEMENTI-SMITH.

From Messrs. NORTON, ROSE, NORTON & CO., Solicitors, London
HENRY DOETSCH, Deceased.

To J. CARTER, ESQ.

DEAR SIR:—It is very important that we should obtain probate of this will at an early date. Will you, therefore, be good enough to let us have an inventory and valuation of the pictures, miniatures and works of art in this collection not later than Monday next. We trust you will not fail us in this particular.

Messrs. Ventom Bull and Cooper have the valuation of the furniture and household effects.

Yours truly, NORTON, ROSE, NORTON & CO.

57½ Old Broad Street, E.C., June 18, 1894.